

Park Lane Public School

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<http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/parklane>

Dates to Remember

June 1- Asian Heritage

9:30-11:30am/1:30- 2:30pm

June 10- PA Day (No School)

June 14 – Canada is for Kids Concert

10-11:30am

June 16- Open House

10 am- 2pm

June 17- Graduation 10-11:30am

June 21- Wizard of Oz Performance

10-11:30am

June 24 - Summer Jam

June 29 – Last Day of School

June 30 – PA Day – No School

April & May, 2016

Principal's Message

I hope everyone enjoyed the long weekend!

We have finally reached some warm air with the Spring Flowers growing. Our District Review was a huge success – not only did we have a chance to tell our story, and tell it well – we also had some stolen time to kick-start some focused work with our class teams on moving forward with the learning goals for our students. We learned more about each other, more about how to work together, and challenged ourselves in areas that perhaps we may not have thought about before. Thanks to all the “arts” folks on staff to continuously bring the Arts to Life at Park Lane!! Kpanlogo Drums, Sonya (singer), Wizard of Oz, Don Mills Show Choir, Humber Jazz, Music Monday, Artist-in-residence and countless other joys – the arts truly engage our students. Thanks to Gloria for a wonderful Music Monday and for keeping music alive at Park Lane! It was a real team effort – everyone contributed a part of their heritage to make the event rich. Our students' artwork was on display at the Artscape Young Place as part of the tdsbCREATES project and generated some wonderful discussions. Thanks to Tina for working so hard with the artist and the students – the work has returned to Park Lane and has been installed on

the sensory wall. In the last weeks, we have engaged in learning about the Jewish Heritage through stories and music.

The GREEN TEAM needs your help! Paula, Meera, Dave, Jenny and Room 1 staff have worked hard at implementing Green Changes to Park Lane – we are teaching the students and staff to use the right bins for recycling, organics and garbage. This is especially important as we engage fully with the Nutrition Program. Our students are receiving a mid-morning meal and working with our Life Skills teacher Ruth in preparing the meals.

Congratulations on our first success of using Wheel Trans to the Don Mills Show Choir – thanks to Tony for navigating and organizing our trips using the TTC! Our students have been attending different field trips such as Paradise Playground and Ripley's Aquarium using Wheeltrans. We thank our parents who have been very supportive in providing TTC numbers to the school. We are looking forward to more activities in the community. We had a very productive day of learning on the PA Day on April 15th. It was good to engage everyone in the communications learning. Our new director hosted an “Unleashing Learning Conference” at the Royal Conservatory that inspired teachers across the TDSB to use innovative technology to reach all our students. The last School Council was a huge success – we had an unprecedented 18 people attend. Our parents are focused on Post-21 planning and how to bring the world into Park Lane and Park Lane into the world. Thanks for your support. We successfully participated and raised funds for Park Lane in the first partnership fundraiser with Sunny View.

Thanks to Jonita and Tina for pulling together the students and teams of staff to create the gorgeous artwork! We raised almost \$1000. This is the first year where we partnered with Sunny View and other congregated schools. This partnership will hopefully bring communities together to support the needs of our students at school and beyond graduation. We are looking forward to more parent and school engagement as the School Council discusses and shares ideas to support our students Post-21.

School Events

Integrated Activity with Leo Baeck

Day School (Gloria G.)

What a fabulous way to make friends --- the Grade 6 class from Leo Baeck Day School came to sing and engage our students in an art activity. The program began with the Leo Baeck students singing two



Hebrew songs, accompanied by 4 students on the guitar; Seth Goldsweig, the Vice Principal, led the group and he played the guitar, too! The students and staff at Park Lane



had learned one of their songs prior to the presentation, so we asked for an encore --- and we participated in the singing, to show Leo Baeck that we could sing and enjoy the music together. The Leo Baeck students were divided into small groups so that they could assist each class with an art activity. The theme centered on Friendship, with the underlying theme that kids are all the same, yet they are all different. With caring and a zest for fun, the

students used their creative skills to paint a visual of what friendship looks like: the end result included pictures with bright, happy colours, hearts, rainbows, as well as words of caring (love, respect, sharing, fun, peace, friends). Upon completion of the artwork, a student from each group explained how the pictures were drawn and what the picture was about. All the pictures were displayed in the gym; they will soon become part of a Friendship collage to be featured in the halls of Park Lane.



Nutrition Program (Dave C.)

The students and staff of Park Lane have risen to the challenge - we are providing a healthy morning snack to all our students! Each morning, a student and staff member prepares, assembles, and delivers a snack to all of our students. Some examples of our mid-morning snack are: yogurt, fruit smoothies, apples, oranges, cheese and crackers, apple sauce, pancakes, and oatmeal. The menu changes each week, and we have a rotating schedule so that multiple students will get a chance to participate in snack delivery and prep. Besides the benefits of healthy food, students are gaining other valuable skills through the program such as: social skills (greeting, serving), and life skills (sorting food,



servicing, delivering food to others, and stirring). Students build self-esteem and a feeling of community. We look forward to continue developing our program on the successes and learnings to date. Thank you for your continued support of our nutrition program.

Jacob's Family Concert (Tina F.)



Jacob celebrated his 19th birthday by having his family and friends provide a concert to his schoolmates. His aunts Stacy and Jennifer sang a wide array of interactive songs to encourage students to "twist and shout". Special guests Raina and Ethan expressively sang while playing the guitar and piano. The gym was beautifully decorated in a jazz theme with donated decorations from Elisa's past charity gala. Ellen (Jacob's mom) brought a multi-tiered stand of music-themed cupcakes to share with staff and students. Park Lane would like to thank Ellen for her many contributions to Park Lane's music program over the years. She has provided us with charity donations (from the Jacob's Ladder Foundation), family-based concerts in the gym, inspirational philosophies on making live performance more accessible, and community connections (e.g. encouraging Leo Baeck Day School to come and sing to our students).



Room 2

Team: Jennifer, Tina, Krisztina, Melissa, Cynthia and Aida



Favourite Day: Day 5 because we have Snoezelen first thing in the morning. In the afternoon, we get to see Nicole in the gym and Gloria at the piano. Staff and students love singing and vocalizing to children's music.

Favourite Activity: Special events in the gym, especially with Kwasi Dunyo. We are very familiar with his songs, hand actions and percussion instruments from Ghana.

Favourite Food: Staff in our room enjoys taking turns to prepare lunches for each other. Students enjoy smelling and tasting foods from our nutrition program.

Sensory Recipe: Gnocchi (highly rated on Allrecipies.com)

1 cup of mashed potatoes

2 cups of flour

1 egg

1. Combine mashed potatoes, flour and egg in a large bowl. Knead until dough forms a ball. Shape small portions of the dough into long "snakes". On a floured surface, cut snakes into half-inch pieces.

2. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Drop in gnocchi and cook for 3 to 5 minutes or until gnocchi have risen to the top. Drain and serve with your favourite sauce.

Room 7

Team Members: Cindy, Angela, Cynthia, Maria, Fariba.

Favorite Activity: Many of our favourite activities in Room 7 center around using our senses. We enjoy visits from our therapy dogs, Alexander and Roxanne. Students engage with the dogs by touching the dog, taking the dog for walks and feeding the dog treats. Students respond by smiling and sometimes vocalizing.

Favourite Day: One of our favourite days is Day 1. On that day, we participate in sensory crafts. Our students explore a variety of themes by using all of their senses. During our eco theme, activities included creating pictures using food colouring and coffee filters. We dropped food colouring on the filters and watched as the colour spread across the filters. We also planted grass seeds. The students touched and smelled mulch and planting soil. As the grass grows, students will water the grass. Continuing with our eco theme, our class made bird feeders and hung the feeders on a tree near Room 1. Students look out the window and watch birds and squirrels eat seeds from the bird feeders.



JAZZ IN THE SCHOOLS - 2016! Gloria G.

All our students were rocking to the beat! Humber College kids came together as a band, as singers and as dancers! Twelve talented musicians shared their love of music and brought smiles to our students' faces! The students listened attentively as the band demonstrated the many styles of jazz as they explained how jazz evolved. We were introduced to the saxophone, the trumpet, the bass guitar, the drums and the keyboard. Our students and staff needed no encouragement to get up and dance – the music spoke for itself!



MUSIC MONDAY TRIBUTE - 2016! Gloria G.

Launched in 2005 by the Coalition for Music Education, MUSIC MONDAY (celebrated annually on the first Monday of May) is the world's largest single event dedicated to raising awareness of music in the schools.



Last year the search for a MUSIC MONDAY song became a competition and the winning entry was composed by a 16-year old high school student,



Connor Ross. What makes Music Monday so unique is that students from across Canada, from British Columbia to Newfoundland, sing or play the theme song on the same day, at the exact same time! The idea is that we are united by one piece of music ---- ONE NATION, ONE SONG! Park Lane students were gathered in the gym to showcase various percussion instruments in a tribute to Connor's theme song. The students were divided into groups, featuring different instruments with a combination of rhythms.

There was staff participation as well: to enable fellow Canadians to sing in the language that resonates with their musical soul, the chorus was sung in 6 different languages!

For the final presentation, everyone sang the theme song, while Maria, a staff member, did sign language for the entire song. Once again, we demonstrated the vital role that music education plays in the lives of us all and, in particular, our students!



Room 10

RECIPE FOR GOOD TEAMWORK

5 cups of APPRECIATION

6 cups of THANKSGIVING

11 cups of COOPERATION & RESPECT

Mix all ingredients TOGETHER

Form a SMOOTH BATTER of TOGETHERNESS!!!

ROOM 10 TEAM: HELEN, JOSEPH KAREN, ANTHONY and VALRIE



TEAMWORK
MAKES THE
DREAM WORK!

We make cant's into cans &
dreams into knowledge!